

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 187173
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SS-15 AS-01 /035 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:SSHALLFORD:JO
APPROVED BY EA/PRCM:HETTHAYER
EA/PRCM:DMANDERSON (DRAFT)
-----049797 251707Z /43 42
R 251523Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187173

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, CH, US

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL

1. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS APPROACHED THE DESK WITH A REQUEST THAT WE CONSIDER APPROVING SEPARATE USDA COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS WITH USLO. THE CHANNELS, "FASTO" AND "TOFAS", WOULD BE USED FOR UNCLASSIFIED AGRICULTURE-RELATED MESSAGES NOT NORMALLY REQUIRING A STATE CLEARANCE. FAS REGULATIONS INCLUDE IN THIS CATEGORY SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS CROP REPORTS, PRICES AND COST INFORMATION ON AGRICULTURE COMMODITIES, ROUTINE TRADE FAIR MATTERS, MARKET DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION, INCLUDING RELATED BUDGET AND FUNDING INFORMATION, AND FOREIGN NEWS REPORTS OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE. THESE CHANNELS WOULD NOT BE USED FOR ANY MESSAGES RELATED TO POLICY OR PERSONNEL.

2. SUBJECT TO USLO'S COMMENT, WE INTEND TO TURN DOWN THIS
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REQUEST. MOST OF THE SUBJECTS APPEAR NOT TO BE PERTINENT TO THE PRC OR ARE NOT REPORTED IN UNCLASSIFIED CHANNELS. THE PRESENT VOLUME OF USDA-ORIGINATED MESSAGES IS NOT BURDENSOME AND UNTIL US-PRC RELATIONS ARE ESTABLISHED ON A MORE NORMAL BASIS, WE WOULD JUST AS SOON AVOID POTENTIAL PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT BE CAUSED BY UNCLEARED USDA COMMUNICATIONS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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